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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED. By *Alfred Binet and Th. Simon*. Translated by Elizabeth S. Kite. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1916. Illustrated. Pp. 328. (Publication of the Vineland Training School.)

The translator has here made available in English three articles which appeared during the years 1908 and 1909 in *L'Année Psychologique*. This work as now published is a sequel to "The Development of the Intelligence Among Children." It is characterized by an intensive study of a few subjects, reproductions of conversations with these subjects, and discussions of these conversations.

Part I, on The Intelligence of the Feeble-Minded, extends through about one-half of the book. In this, the authors present "a new method of psychology, which may be called psychogenetics." In carrying out this method, they find all such faculties as attention, memory, judgment, reasoning, suggestibility, etc., present in some degree in all defectives. However, in the case of "practical acquisitions" such as reading, writing, and gaining a living, a different type of ability is required: ability to direct, adapt, and criticize one's thought. Here, the investigators find an absence of abilities which are possessed by the normal mind.

In Part II, on The Language of the Feeble-Minded, appears a detailed account of the application of the psychogenetic method to the measurement of the abilities of several subjects to use language. In several chapters, especially those upon the psychological conditions of speech and the relation between thought and language, the authors discuss issues which are of great interest to the general psychologist as well as to the psychiatrist.

Feeble-Mindedness and Dementia are discussed in Part III. After criticizing some current definitions of dementia, the authors give illustrations of the application of a measuring scale of intelligence. They distinguish between demented and defectives by contrasting the functioning of intelligence with its development. That is, data given show the dement's loss to be one of ability to evoke the facts of experience, and the defective's one of inability to develop; senile demented thus show better ability in matters of judgment than do defectives, although the senile demented is unable to call up specific ideas. This instinctive or attitudinal existence of demented gives rise to the distinctive difference between dementia and feeble-mindedness.

As stated above, this book treats of matters which are of interest to the general psychologist. Its special appeal is, however, to the psychologist who is particularly interested in abnormal mental development. Besides giving further illustrations of Binet's use of his measuring scale, it adds greatly to our knowledge of the feeble-minded.

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